

Document No.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 7/1763

Date: 050478 BY: 027

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

## INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Siberia, Korea

DATE:

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INFO. 

SUBJECT Political Information: Soviet Treatment of Japanese Prisoners-of-War

DIST. 23 December 1946

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

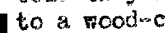
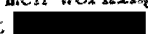
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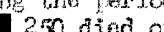
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EVALUATION OF CONTENT

1. At Komsomolsk (137-01, 50-33) some 80,000 Japanese were divided into battalions of 1000 men, each commanded by a first lieutenant. There are four companies of 250 men each, commanded by a second lieutenant, and four platoons in each company, under command of a non-commissioned officer. These battalions are spaced 10 kilometers apart along the Komsomolsk-Kirensk Sibirski (108-03, 57-46) railroad project. Each battalion is guarded by fifty Russian soldiers who impose the death penalty on any Japanese who attempts to escape.

2. The 80,000 Japanese POWs were told by the Russians that their work along the railroad and highway there would have to be finished before they could be sent back to Japan. Their responsibility was to complete 800 kilometers of the railroad west from Komsomolsk, which they were told would take a minimum of two years from September 1945. German POWs were responsible for completing 400 kilometers of railroad east from Kirensk-Sibirski and they were told they would be on the job for five years after V-E Day.  to a wood-cutting crew which operated some distance from the railroad and highway. The trees were felled, stripped and hauled away by truck. He did not know what the logs were used for, but did observe that the wood was too soft for ties. It was his assumption that the wood was used for rough lumber construction, firewood, or pulp. The trees were evergreen, probably hemlock or yellow pine. Men working in the woods had no contact with those working on the railroad. At  camp there were 300 German POWs in the 20-30 year age group. They had been there for six months prior to the Japanese arrival in November 1945 and were engaged in building construction.

3. Working hours were from daylight until dark. During winter months this schedule was not unreasonable, but during the summer it imposed a definite strain on the workmen.

4. About 50% of the Japanese were ill and unable to work more than half the time. Common complaints were beri-beri, respiratory diseases, and eye ailments. A Japanese doctor was assigned to each battalion, but no medicines or hospital facilities were made available. During the period from 25 September 1945 to 30 January 1946, ten of  250 died of sickness.

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